APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
08/951,630	10/16/97	VANCE	A 07099.0010-0

LM01/0328

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EXAMINER
POINVIL, F

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2768	16

DATE MAILED:
03/28/00

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _Jan 4, 2000_

☒ This action is **FINAL.**

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, **prosecution as to the merits is closed** in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle* 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire _____ 3 ___ month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claim

   ☒ Claim(s) _1-93_ _____ is/are pending in the applicat

   Of the above, claim(s) _____ . is/are withdrawn from consideration

   ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

   ☒ Claim(s) _1-93_ _____ is/are rejected.

   ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

   ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

   ☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

   ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

   ☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.

   ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

   ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

   ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

      ☐ All ☐ Some* ☒ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been

         ☐ received.

         ☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____ .

         ☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

      *Certified copies not received: _____

   ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

   ☐ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

   ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____15___

   ☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

   ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

   ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

--- *SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES* ---

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness

rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in
> section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are
> such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person
> having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the
> manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-75 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shoolery et

al.

As per claims 1, 4, 7, 8, 9, 12, Shoolery et al discloses a corporate travel system having a

computerized system comprising a travel planning, expense reporting and travel management

system.   The system also comprises approval of travel requests before travel expenses are

occurred, the automated expense report approval and the planning and booking of air, hotel, and

car accommodations. Note column 7 to column 8 of Shoolery et al. It is not explicitly stated

that the system comprises a relational database. It would have been obvious to the skilled artisan

to include a relational database in the system of Shoolery et al in order to link the different files in

the overall system and also to easily modify systems' data and components. Allowing a traveler

to complete a travel reservation in compliance with an enterprise rules is discussed on column 5,

lines 44-59 of Shoolery. Post reservation processing is also well known in the art. Note column

5, lines 33-40 of Shoolery.

As per claim 2, Shoolery et al discusses traveler and corporate profiles and corporate policy. Note column 2 and column 8. Incorporating these teachings into Shoolery et al would have been obvious to the skilled artisan so that a traveler is aware of trips and or requests that may be approved by the corporation

As per claim 3, having a travel planning and a travel expense formulating module and a travel decision maker module in the system of Shoolery et al would have been obvious to the skilled artisan in order to have separate subsystems performing specific portions of the reservation management system.

As per claims 5 and 6, Shoolery et al teaches booking air, hotel and car accommodations using a graphical user interface. Planning a non-routine trip or a repeat trip including air, hotel and car accommodations are well known attributes of reservations system . Having this feature in Shoolery et al would have been obvious to the skilled artisan in order to accommodate a traveler's flight plans.

As per claim 10, including prepopulated with trip data in the GUI of Shoolery et al would have been obvious to the skilled artisan in order to quickly plan or modify a trip.

As per claim 11, Shoolery et al discusses pre-trip cost reporting. Note column 2. Providing data on post travel reporting are taught on columns 5 and 8 of Shoolery et al. Providing pre-trip cost in the system of Shoolery et al would have been obvious to the skilled artisan in order to determine approval of a planned trip.

All the claimed features of claim 13 are discussed in column 8 of Shoolery et al with the exception of energizing a trip icon. This is well known and well practiced in the GUI art. as such would have also been obvious to the skilled artisan in order to visually gain access to trip access data.

As per claims 14-16, having a new expense report icon for specifying the date and the purpose of the expense would have been obvious to the skilled artisan. Also having a frequent trip icon and selecting a frequent trip would have been obvious to the skilled artisan in order to provide a more user friendly GUI which would help a traveler to quickly modify or make a traveling plan. Having an expense report icon would have been obvious to the skilled artisan with the motivation of quickly creating an expense report from the GUI. The remaining limitations are discussed on column 8 of Shoolery et al.

As per claim 17, note columns 8-9 of Shoolery et al

As per claim 18, applicant is directed to the rejection of claims 1-18 above. Also, the Examiner takes Official Notice that travel request is usually made and approved before travel expenses are incurred. The system of Shoolery employs a plurality of graphical user interfaces for allowing a traveler to plan and book routine and non-routine trips that include at least one selected from a group comprising air, hotel and car accommodations. The planned and booked routine and nonroutine trips is communicated to a travel agency for post planning and booking processing. Having an expense report approval and routing device for automatically approving and routing expense reports are also taught by Shoolery. Incorporating information from the

travel planning module and the expense reporting module and providing pre-travel and post-travel reporting would have been obvious to the skilled artisan for accounting purposes, and also with the motivation of keeping records on trip activities of a particular employee.

As per claim 19, applicant is directed to the rejection of claim 2 above.

As per claims 20-21, applicant is directed to the rejections of claims 1-2 above.

As per claims 22-23, applicant is directed to the rejection of claim 8.

As per claim 24, repeating the sending and receiving steps until completing the portion of the travel plan would have been obvious to the skilled artisan with the motivation of reviewing and ascertaining that all data regarding planning and reservations are in agreement with policies and the reservation systems.

As per claim 25, modifying a database to reflect information would have been obvious to the skilled artisan (note columns 7-8) for record keeping and reviewing of the planning and reservations data in case if there may be a potential disagreement.

As per claims 26-27 and 29, note columns 7-8 of Shoolery et al. Also, a traveler's travel plan must always comply with the enterprise's travel rules for approval purposes. The different categories of travelers would have been obvious to the skilled artisan because it is well known in the art that in a given enterprise, there are different level of employees. Assigning categories of individuals in the system of Shoolery would have been obvious to the skilled artisan for the interest of the enterprise and also because certain high level employees would have to make frequent traveling plans for making negotiations in the interest of the enterprise.

As per claim 28, applicant is directed to column 5 of Shoolery et al.

As per claim 30, Shoolery et al teaches modifying the travel plan to comply with the travel policies by sending a travel itinerary reflecting changes to the received travel plan to a computerized reservation system and receiving a response from the computerized reservation system including information reflecting availability of travel resources based on the itinerary. Note columns 7-8 of Shoolery et al.

As per claim 31 note column 8 of Shoolery et al. Also generating a report corresponding to the requested travel plan, response, and expense data based on the completed travel reservation would have been obvious to the skilled artisan for accounting purposes.

As per claim 32, generating a set of reports reflecting travel information from the storage subsystem would have been obvious to the skilled artisan because a travel report is usually very long (column 9, lines 15-34) and different branches of the enterprise and the reservation system and management system would require specific reports for their analysis purposes.

As per claim 33, note columns 6 and 7 of Shoolery et al.

As per claim 34, note columns 7-8 of Shoolery et al.

As per claim 35, note column 5, lines 44-59 of Shoolery et al.

As per claim 36, the claimed features of claim 36 are discussed on columns 7-8 of Shoolery et al. Having a processor operating in response to a program instructions to receive a request to book a travel plan from a traveler would have been obvious to the skilled artisan for the functioning of the system. Shoolery also teaches having rules for determining whether a traveler's

requested travel plan complies with travel policies associated with the enterprise. Allowing a traveler to complete a travel reservation in compliance with an enterprise rules is discussed on column 5, lines 44-59 of Shoolery. Post reservation processing is also well known in the art. Note column 5, lines 33-40 of Shoolery.

As per claims 37-47, applicant is directed to columns 5-8 of Shoolery et al.

As per claims 48, 49, 57, 64 and 73, Shoolery et al discloses a travel system and a computer implemented method of managing information in a travel system comprising storing travel information corresponding to itineraries and associated expense data and travel policy data in a storage subsystem. The arranging, generating and linking steps are all discussed on columns 7-8 of Shoolery et al. Shoolery also teaches having rules for determining whether a traveler's requested travel plan complies with travel policies associated with the enterprise. Allowing a traveler to complete a travel reservation in compliance with an enterprise rules is discussed on column 5, lines 44-59 of Shoolery. Post reservation processing is also well known in the art. Note column 5, lines 33-40 of Shoolery.

As per claim 50, Shoolery et al. discloses booking a travel itinerary with an external facility with information on travel resources and determining that any booked travel itinerary complies through policy compliance analysis. Note column 6, line 52 to column 8, line 50.

As per claim 51, note column 8, lines 5-70.

As per claims 52-54, note column 7, line 37 to column 8, line 4.

As per claim 55, note column 7, line 1 to column 8, line 54.

As per claim 56 the status report including information from the storage subsystem and stored travel resource contract data such as expense data are discussed on column 8, lines 5-50.

As per claim 58, Shoolery et al discusses booking a travel itinerary with an external facility with information on travel resources and ensuring that booked travel itineraries comply with stored travel policies. Having a booking component and a policy component configured to determine whether at least one travel itinerary complies with stored travel policies would have been obvious to the skilled artisan in order to maintain a well structured database whereby specific modules or computer component structures are associated with specific tasks and thereby obtaining a faster overall system.

As per claims 59-61, note columns 7-8 of Shoolery et al.

As per claim 62, Shoolery et al discusses generating a report including travel itinerary, associated expense data and associated information reflecting compliance with the travel policy data. Note columns 7-8 of Shoolery et al. Having a reporting subsystem is not explicitly recited in Shoolery et al. Having a reporting subsystem for performing these functions would have been obvious to the skilled artisan in order to maintain a well structured database whereby specific modules or computer component structures are associated with specific tasks and thereby obtaining a faster overall system.

As per claim 63, Shoolery et al discusses accessing various storage systems to generate a report or status report. Note columns 7-8 of Shoolery et al.

As per claims 65-66 and 73, these claimed features are discussed on columns 7-8 of

Shoolery et al. Having a planning subsystem, a management subsystem and a reporting subsystem

would have been obvious to the skilled artisan in order to maintain a well structured database

whereby specific subsystems or computer component structures are associated with specific tasks

and thereby obtaining a faster overall system. Allowing a traveler to reserve a travel plan with the

external source based on a result of the determination for each request and communicate reserved

from the travel plan to a travel agency for subsequent processing is taught on column 8, line 5 to

column 9, line 50 of Shoolery.

As per claim 67, all the claimed limitations are discussed on columns 7-8 with the

exception of providing and storing preference data associated with travelers or group of travelers.

Allowing a traveler to reserve a travel plan based on a result of the determination for each request

and communicate the reserved travel plan to a travel agency for subsequent processing is

discussed on columns 6-8.

As per claim 68, applicant is directed to column 8 of Shoolery et al.

As per claim 69, updating for reflecting enterprise-wide travel information in the database

would have been obvious to the skilled artisan with the motivation of providing travelers and

employees with the latest policies and trip data.

As per claims 70-72, all the claimed features are taught on columns 7-8. Having separate

components as claimed for performing the claimed functions are not explicitly recited in Shoolery

et al. Having these components would have been obvious to the skilled artisan in order to

maintain a well structured database whereby specific modules or computer component structures are associated with specific tasks and thereby obtaining a faster overall system. Shoolery also teaches rules for determining whether a traveler's requested travel plan complies with travel policies associated with the enterprise. Allowing a traveler to complete a travel reservation in compliance with an enterprise rules is discussed on column 5, lines 44-59 of Shoolery. Post reservation processing is also well known in the art. Note column 5, lines 33-40 of Shoolery.

As per claim 74, applicant is directed to column 5, lines 44-59 of Shoolery et al.

As per claim 75, applicant is directed to columns 7-8 of Shoolery et al.

As per claim 76, a corporate traveler communicates with a computerized reservation system and at least a travel agency.

As per claim 77, the system of Shoolery discloses a plurality of graphical user interfaces are configured to allow the traveler to retrieve trip data. Retrieving repeat trip data from a repeat trip file database would have been obvious to the skilled artisan so as to provide the traveler with instant information about a planned repeat trip thereby avoiding entries of duplicate data. Complete a modified travel reservation for a modified travel plan based on the repeat trip would have also been obvious to the skilled artisan because it is well known in the art that travelers usually reschedule planned trips. Modifying a travel plan based on a repeat trip would have saved the traveler or agent time in the entry of data.

As per claim 78, Official Notice is taken that a traveler usually cancels a completed travel reservation. Providing such in the system of Shoolery would have been obvious to the skilled artisan with the motivation of making the system a complete and operative system.

As per claim 79, note columns 5 and 6 of Shoolery et al.

As per claim 80, note column 5, lines 44-64 of Shoolery et al.

As per claim 81, Shoolery et al does not explicitly disclose a set of policy preferences include a project policy preference that takes precedence over an employee policy preference. The Examiner takes Official Notice that in an enterprise, certain necessary events or projects of greater interests to the enterprise would take preference over an employee preference. Incorporating such a feature in Shoolery et al would have been obvious to the skilled artisan so as to save the enterprise revenues.

As per claim 83, Shoolery teaches authorizing a planned trip. Having an unauthorized trip device for allowing a corporate manage to cancel unauthorized travel plans would have been obvious to the skilled artisan in order to provide instant cancellation of an unauthorized trip.

As per claim 84, the Examiner interprets a "reserved trip actual activity" as a special event in which a corporate employee must travel.

As per claims 85-86, Shoolery teaches looking for the cheapest fair or price. Note columns 5-8 of Shoolery et al.

As per claim 87, note columns 5-8 of Shoolery et al.

As per claim 88, Shoolery et al does not explicitly disclose a a set of policy preferences include a project policy preference that takes precedence over an employee policy preference. The Examiner takes Official Notice that in an enterprise, certain necessary events or projects of greater interests to the enterprise would take preference over an employee preference. Incorporating such a feature in Shoolery et al would have been obvious to the skilled artisan so as to save the enterprise revenues.

As per claims 82 and 89, negotiating a hotel rate policy preference that takes precedence over a corporate-preferred vendor policy preference would have been obvious to the skilled with the motivation of saving the enterprise revenue.

As per claim 90, determining whether a reserved trip activity actually occurred would have been obvious to the skilled artisan in order to account for the scheduled trip.

As per claim 91, Shoolery et al. teaches searching for a cheap price.

As per claim 92, applicant is directed to the reject-ion of claim 1 above.

As per claim 93, note the rejection of claims 8--91 above.

2.   **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

a shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period

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will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37

CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event,

however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date

of this final action.

3.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Frantzy Poinvil, whose telephone number is (703) 305-9779. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM.

The fax phone number for this Art Unit is (703) 305-0040.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

FP

25Mar00

Frantzy Poinvil
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2761